

2004

BEST Workplaces for CommutersSM

The logo for the Valley of the Sun is a teal-colored, irregular brushstroke shape. Inside this shape, the words "Valley of the Sun" are written in a white, sans-serif font.

Best Workplaces for CommutersSM is a U.S. EPA/U.S. DOT partnership program that rewards and recognizes employers who voluntarily meet the *National Standard of Excellence* in employer-provided commuter benefits. This program doesn't cost anything. In fact, it's more like a federal government "seal of approval" for employers that offer excellent commuting benefits to their employees.

So far, more than 1,300 employers have signed up for the program nationwide. Becoming one of the nation's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM makes good business sense.

- Enhances your organization's reputation as a great place to work—being on the list of Best Workplaces for CommutersSM!
- Supports your commitment to improving the local quality of life by reducing traffic congestion & improving air quality.
- Enables you to attract and retain the best employees in any economic climate—your benefits package is designated as among the best.
- Affirms your commitment to facilitate a balance between work and home.

Employers will also have exclusive rights to use the term "Best Workplace for CommutersSM"—a term of excellence for environmentally and employee-friendly companies. Some employers have begun using the name in their job ads.

To qualify for Best Workplaces for CommutersSM, your organization must have the following commuter benefits in place:

- Designate a **commuter coordinator** to serve as the central point of contact for employee questions,
 - **Centralize** all employee commuter information (e.g., on an internal web site),
 - Regularly **inform employees** of their commuting benefits,
 - Offer employees a commuter benefits package that comprises:
 - At least **one core commuting benefit** (e.g., transit fare subsidies, parking cashout, a significant level of telecommuting, vanpool benefits) at a \$30/month value per employee.
 - At least **three supporting commuting benefits** (e.g., bike racks and showers, compressed work schedules, preferred parking for vanpools/carpools). *Only one is required if less than 20 employees.*
 - Access to an **Emergency Ride Home** program.
 - Meet a minimum employee **participation level**—at least 14% non-SOV.
 - Check in with EPA annually to confirm you still offer the same excellent benefits.
- Provide at least three non-core commuting benefits (*only 1 is required for firms with fewer than 20 employees.*)
- Secure bicycle parking, showers, and lockers
 - Compressed work schedules
 - Preferred parking for carpools and vanpools
 - Telecommuting (less than 6 percent of commute trips on a monthly basis)
 - On-site amenities (e.g., convenience mart, dry cleaning, etc.)
 - Membership in a TMA or participation in a voluntary regional air quality program or another employer-based commuter program
 - Ridesharing or carpool matching, either in-house or through a local or regional agency
 - Pre-tax transit or vanpool benefits

Companies fill out a short self-nomination form and use their current Maricopa County Trip Reduction plan and surveys for documentation. Getting on the list of Best Workplaces for CommutersSM is easy! Go to www.bestworkplacesforcommuters.gov or www.bwc.gov to enroll online. There is no limit for qualifying companies.

The program will be kicked off to employers in February 2004 and after an information and sign up period, the list will be announced to the media in June 2004. We need to have partners confirmed by January 15th to incorporate logos in all materials.